

VOL. 37, NO. 52.

CONNELLSVILLE, PA., THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 8, 1915.

EIGHT PAGES.

## Prices and Prospects.

### COKE PRICES SUDDENLY RISE TO HIGHER LEVELS AND MAY ADVANCE STILL FURTHER

**Spot Coke Sells at \$1.75 and Contract Third Quarter \$1.85.**

### NEW LEVELS ARE ESTABLISHED

**Steel Trade Shows Further Improvement and Pig Iron is Giving a Better Account of Itself; No Midsummer Shut Down on the Schedule.**

**Special to The Weekly Courier.**  
PITTSBURG, July 7.—Despite efforts of some of the Connellsville coke operators to forestall a shortage of furnace coke this week by shipping extra tonnages on their contracts during the past fortnight while at the same time they have accumulated some coke in stock, the demand apparently was too much for the supply last Friday and Saturday, and sales of spot furnace coke were made at \$1.75, 15 cents above the market on Thursday and 25 cents above the market at the beginning of the week. Yesterday and today the market has been relatively quiet, but spot coke held firmly at this figure or higher, as furnaces, who will not wait for a few days whether or not they are going to be shipped in payment of the regular coke production this week. No coal was charged Monday, of course, and it is doubted whether a full tonnage was charged yesterday, so that the drawings on Thursday are likely to be light, in addition to practically one day having been lost, so coke is likely to be sold at \$1.75 or higher. Contract coke has been sold this week covering the third quarter at \$1.55 per ton.

The aim of operators now will be to prevent the prompt market from sagging below the \$1.55 price. They have naturally had difficulty in persuading prospective buyers that coke contracts for second half ought to be higher when it was impossible to buy spot and prompt coke in the open market at \$1.50 or \$1.55. The steel trade has improved further and has entered July—without the slightest sign appearing of the usual midsummer dullness. Instead, conditions promise to continue growing better, with mills more fully employed and prices of steel products advancing. With such good prospects the coke market is certain to be stronger sentimentally at least. The market is quoted as follows:

Spot furnace ..... \$1.75  
Contract furnace ..... \$1.85  
Prompt foundry ..... \$2.00 or \$2.20  
Contract foundry ..... \$2.20 or \$2.40

The pig iron market is giving a better account of itself, and this naturally improves the coke market prospects, as the merchant coke market moves more closely with the pig iron market than the steel market. Recently several tons of the Valley furnaces dropped quotations on foundry and malleable iron from \$12.75 to \$12.50 at furnace, thus making the lowest prices on these grades that have obtained since 1904. In the past few days there has been a decided conclusion that the market will reach about 25¢ per ton against the low point of 14¢ at the close of December, an advance of \$2.20 per net ton or about \$2 per gross ton.

In pig iron we have a composite of \$12.00, against an average of \$13.07 in both December and January. Some descriptions are higher, it is true, but others are lower. While there is considerable hope left in the pig iron trade, it is by no means certain that the outlook is better than that it was six months ago. At that time the coke market had its future before it. Everything had been in a low ebb and buyers had little occasion for showing confidence in the future. Now the buyers have much more reason to feel confident for the future, but this does not advantage the market. On the contrary, a survey of the situation, in some important markets at least, indicates that the consumers are fairly well covered, in some cases to the end of the year, while in addition there has been considerable speculative iron purchased on contracts that will not expire until the fall of the year. The date has been set for August 15.

The bill asked for the satisfaction of two mortgages one for \$2,000,000 head issue, which the trust company financed, and the second asking indemnity for the sum due to the company on the paper interest by the terms of the trust. This latter obligation was placed by an attorney of the company at \$1,750,000, which makes the Calumet Trust Company's claim against the company approximately \$4,000,000. Other liabilities of the company were paid by lawyers to total several million more, but with which they have no concern.

The holdings of the company consist of six separate mines, all of which were prosperous. These are the Martinian, the Hazel, the Frances, the John, and the Bertha mines. John H. Jones is the president of the company and F. O. Jones is the general manager.

The troubles of the company are said to have been hastened by the formation of the Four States Coal and Coke Company, an auxiliary concern and into which was poured much of the revenue of the Pittsburgh-Buffalo Company.

**Big Bond Issue.**  
Stockholders of the Western Steel & Coke Company have authorized a bond issue of \$5,000,000. Half of the proceeds will be used at once to construct in Benwood a combination sheet, bar and sleep mill, to remodel the company's tube mill and enlarge the tin-plated plant at Yorkville, O.

**Shops Resume.**  
The shops of the Southern Railway Company at Princeton, Ind., which were closed six months ago, have resumed operations.

## Review of the Connellsville Coke Trade.

### Statistical Summary.

PRODUCTION.	WEEK ENDING JULY 3, 1915.			WEEK ENDING JUNE 26, 1915.					
	DISTRICT.	Ovens.	In.	Out.	Tons.	Ovens.	In.	Out.	Tons.
Connellsville	21,507	14,871	6,000	202,780	21,567	14,752	6,815	166,825	
Lower Connellsville	17,128	11,575	5,853	188,054	17,428	11,527	5,901	158,643	
<b>Totals.</b>	<b>38,635</b>	<b>26,446</b>	<b>12,853</b>	<b>391,834</b>	<b>39,995</b>	<b>26,279</b>	<b>12,716</b>	<b>325,468</b>	
<hr/>									
FURNACE OVENS.									
Connellsville	17,318	12,327	5,084	167,080	17,113	12,333	5,080	163,184	
Lower Connellsville	5,552	4,015	939	63,801	5,552	4,015	939	61,225	
<b>Totals.</b>	<b>22,865</b>	<b>16,342</b>	<b>6,023</b>	<b>231,821</b>	<b>22,665</b>	<b>16,030</b>	<b>6,010</b>	<b>224,409</b>	
MERCHANT OVENS									
Connellsville	4,154	2,554	1,610	34,830	4,154	2,419	1,735	33,354	
Lower Connellsville	3,876	2,362	1,911	101,003	3,876	2,314	4,992	97,118	
<b>Totals.</b>	<b>10,030</b>	<b>4,916</b>	<b>3,521</b>	<b>130,793</b>	<b>10,030</b>	<b>4,733</b>	<b>6,007</b>	<b>130,760</b>	
SHIPMENTS.									
To Pittsburgh				3,800 Cars.				3,650 Cars.	
To Points West of Pittsburgh				5,253 Cars.				4,734 Cars.	
To Points East of the Region				1,119 Cars.				900 Cars.	
<b>Totals.</b>				<b>10,172 Cars.</b>				<b>9,383 Cars.</b>	

### BRISK SUMMER IS PROMISED FOR THE STEEL INDUSTRY

No Important Movement This Week Started in July, But Much Will Be Busy.

Special to The Weekly Courier.

NEW YORK, July 7.—The American Metal Market and Daily Iron & Steel Report will review the broad steel situation tomorrow as follows:

There will be no dull summer in the steel trade. No important improvement has ever started in July, but when the proper start has already been made July and August can be active months, with advancing prices, as shown by the experience of 1909, 1910 and 1912.

The beginning of July was signaled by a fairly general withdrawal of prices on bars, plates and shapes of 25¢ per ton by several operators in wire products, 10¢ on plain wire and \$1.40 on nails being restored, while painted and galvanized bars were advanced \$2 a ton over former prices and galvanized nails were given an extra advance of 25 cents a keg. Black and blue annealed sheets stiffened.

The steel mills in Western Pennsylvania and Western Ohio are operating very nearly at capacity. The Carnegie Steel Company is operating all of its steel plants except Columbian, and even Edgar Thomson is running fairly full. The pressure to steel is illustrated by a couple of items that the Carnegie Steel Company has bought a small tonnage of steel in the east, while the Edgar Thomson plant is shipping ingots to such plants as have scaling pit and bloomery and capable to square.

Experts of steel and manufacturers of steel in April represented about 12% of the current output of finished steel, and it is estimated that exports will tots a day more in the case of the Steel Corporation. Steel products, while they are at a very advancing rate, are at any rate higher, our foreign finished steel now standing at 1.2¢ against a low point of 1.1¢ at the close of December, an advance of 42¢ per gross ton.

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At that time the coke market had its future before it. Everything had been in a low ebb and buyers had little occasion for showing confidence in the future. Now the buyers have much more reason to feel confident for the future, but this does not advantage the market. On the contrary, a survey of the situation, in some important markets at least, indicates that the consumers are fairly well covered, in some cases to the end of the year, while in addition there has been considerable speculative iron purchased on contracts that will not expire until the fall of the year.

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The troubles of the company are said to have been hastened by the formation of the Four States Coal and Coke Company, an auxiliary concern and into which was poured much of the revenue of the Pittsburgh-Buffalo Company.

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**Lands Export Trade.**  
The Pittsburgh Coal Company is exporting coal to South America.

### COKE MERGER MIGHT MEAN SALVATION OF SMALLER OPERATORS

Few Strong Hands Could Have Kept Prices Up to \$2 a Ton.

### CUT FAILED TO AID FURNACES

Strongly Fortified Steel Interest Garnered the Benefits; Larger and Stronger Units of Production a Vital Need for Merchant Men.

Commenting on the anomalous position of the pig iron and scrap markets, the American Metal Market says:

The steel mills are believed to be operating at close to 85% of nominal capacity, whereas last December in the case of the Steel Corporation, steel products probably lost 15% of the total steel being produced, and the theory of overcapacity is not supported in a manner that can be accepted. To an extent it may be attributed to the fact that a considerable part of the present steel demand is for war material, not carrying with it an increased consumption of iron castings and therefore of the normal product of the merchant furnaces, but the total steel now being produced for war purposes of all sorts probably lost less than 15% of the total steel being produced, and the theory of overcapacity is not supported in a manner that can be accepted. To an extent it may be attributed to the fact that a considerable part of the present steel demand is for war material, not carrying with it an increased consumption of iron castings and therefore of the normal product of the merchant furnaces, but the total steel now being produced for war purposes of all sorts probably lost less than 15% of the total steel being produced, and the theory of overcapacity is not supported in a manner that can be accepted.

Perhaps the best explanation is to be found in the fact that the steel trade is dominated by large units, not by small units.

The demand for benzol and other oil products which are easily obtainable in the market is not great, and the merchant operators of the Connellsville coke region are not suffering to any noticeable extent. As far as the coke market is concerned, the situation is not clear, but it is evident that a considerable portion of the coke produced is being sold to the steel industry.

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Six months ago the coke outlook was necessarily favorable. The market was looking up because it had nowhere else to look, being flat on its back, so to speak. The production in the Connellsville and Lower Connellsville regions had sunk in December, to an average of about 60,000 tons a week. Naturally the trade had to future picture it but found that in six months the production had increased by fully two-thirds, and yet prices are not visibly higher.

In the steel market we find Philadelphia and Chicago only a shade higher than in January, while the Pittsburgh market is distinctly lower.

While the regularly quotable market at Pittsburgh did not advance much above \$12, there were some sales at \$12.50 and specially selected heavy steel was understood brought us high as \$13.

No such prices can be obtained now, the market being barely \$12 at the outside. In January the dealers were selling very good tonnages to the mills, while now they are reported to be selling scarcely anything.

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## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION HERE IS QUIETEST YET

**Safety First is the Rule Generally Observed in the Coke Region.**

### LOTS OF PEOPLE OUT OF TOWN

Dawson Has Big Organized Celebration But the First City of the Coke Region Contently Watches Two Carnivals Dry Off Week's End.

That "Safety First" has come to be applied to the 4th of July, as well as everything else, was evidenced Monday in Connellsville and from all reports everywhere else. The day when the Glorious Fourth was a bang-bang affair, with thousands of firecrackers exploding all the time is no more. "Safe and Sane" is the byword now. Connellsville's was essentially all of that and more.

There was no organized celebration of any kind here and things did not live up until evening, when the Connellsville firemen held a parade to open their carnival. Firemen from Uniontown, Scottsdale, Monaca and surrounding towns participated. The Connellsville Military Band headed the procession and here and there along the line were banner-bearers bearing slogans pertinent to the controversy over the rival carnivals. The crowds for the most part visited both shows to look them over and see what each has to offer. Motion picture houses suffered by the excitement outside, for none of them did a rushing business, notwithstanding the general excellence of the attractions they offered.

There were some individual displays of fireworks, however, and much attention to the usual array of hot-air balloons ascended to the heavens, attracting as much attention as ever.

There were no arrests in the city Monday, due to the fact that the mayor extended the time limit for discharging firecrackers; otherwise the police would have kept busy constantly. Originally S. P. M. was to have heard the last crackler but Mayor Marietti wisely decided to let Young America shut the noise down and Young America shut the noise down as often as he pleased. There were two arrests, however, for setting off firecrackers on Saturday night.

The number of persons who went to the mountains or nearby park resorts during the day was unusually large. Week-end parties took many away, and picnics were well attended, notwithstanding the cool and cloudy morning. The First Baptist congregation held a successful outing at the Workman farm near Moyer.

In the Indian Creek valley there were day picnics at Normalville and Mill Run, both of which were largely attended.

Dawson did itself proud with its Independence Day celebration. A big parade at 8:30, with the Y. M. C. A. band, first aid teams, Jr. O. U. A. M., school children, and various societies in line, started the festivities. Then a big American flag purchased by the Junior Order, was unfurled to the breeze and a patriotic demonstration took place. A number of children participated in folk dances and drills at the Y. M. C. A. building. J. K. Smith delivered an address and read the Declaration of Independence.

In the morning baseball game, Vandebilt defeated Dawson 3 to 0, but in the afternoon Dawson came back and won 5 to 3. Athletic events were also pulled off in the afternoon.

In the evening the Y. M. C. A. band gave a concert, during which Miss Helen Belle Rush contributed several solos. The fireworks display was particularly fine.

Miss Virginia Lohr, six years old, suffered painful burns when her dress caught fire from a sparkler. The blazing clothes were extinguished, however, before she was seriously burned.

Several thousand persons attended a big Fourth of July celebration at Mansontown.

Rockwood was the mecca for Somerset county people, a big celebration being in charge of the Old Fellows.

Travel out of Connellsville on the Fourth was unusually heavy, many persons from Connellsville and nearby towns taking advantage of the excursions to Ohiopyle, Canfield and other points in the eastern country.

To Kilkenny Park 128 tickets were sold, and over 100 tickets were sold to Ohiopyle. One hundred and ten round trip tickets were sold to Indian Creek, and 86 one way tickets.

Owing to a celebration held at Adelaide for the benefit of the new Catholic Church in this city, 200 tickets to that place were sold at the local station. A number of persons took in the baseball games at Pittsburg.

Several minor accidents came to light today. Mrs. S. N. Orborn of East Park was buried when a firecracker exploded in her pocket. Thomas Cunningham, nine years old, of Carnegie avenue, was painfully burned when some "chasers" exploded in his pocket. None of the injuries, however, was serious.

**PAYS HEAVY FINE.**

E. M. Hoffman, Arrested for Killing a Dog in Fulton Township.

E. M. Hoffman of town was fined \$100 and \$50 costs on Saturday by Alderman W. W. Clark, in charge of shooting a dog last November in Brush township. Fulton county prosecution was entered by Game Warden Ralph Rose and the defendant pleaded guilty.

It was charged that the defendant shot the dog and then secured two large burns which were fastened to the head to give the impression that a buck had been shot.

The prosecution was brought after an investigation lasting since last November, when the offense is alleged to have been committed.

Subscript for The Weekly Courier.

### TAX NOTICES SENT OUT; \$180,314 TO BE COLLECTED

Connellsville Taxables Receive All Notices at Once for the First Time.

About 15,000 tax notices, representing \$180,314.53, have been sent out by Fred Rohrer and E. R. Photo, collectors of taxes in the city. Taxables received notices for all taxes at the same time, they being mailed in envelopes instead of on postcards as has been the custom of the postal department, having prohibited notices on postcards.

The duplicates are as follows: City \$71,791.01; school, \$76,983.68; county, \$15,334.82; county poor, \$5,128.57; county road, \$7,693.23; state, \$8,193.32; dog, \$140. The city levy is 14 mills, the school levy is 16 mills, the county poor is 10 and the state 4 mills, a total of 35 1/2.

A rebate of one per cent will be allowed for payment of city taxes before August 1, three per cent will be added to all not collected by September 1, and after that one per cent a month will be added. No discount is allowable on school tax. There is a rebate on county tax if paid before September 1. It is collectable at face during October and November, and after November 30 five per cent will be added.

### LOSES HIS CLOTHES

Young Man Meets Misfortune at the Swimming Hole.

One young man who went "swimming" in the Yough above South Connellsville on Sunday came pretty near drowning in a barrel. Someone stole his clothes and he had to wait around a la September Morn until his more fortunate companions walked back home and brought him a change of attire.

A number of youths, ranging in age from 14 to 18, decided to go for a swim. Instead of leaving their clothes at the bank at a spot where they could reach them quickly, they hid them in the bushes, never dreaming that anyone would ever discover the place. When they came out and began to dress, one of them found his watch and chain and some change missing and to his great horror another discovered his trousers, coat and shirt gone. There was no trace of the thief.

It is no fun to be stranded on a swimming hole with your lingerie to wash home. The victim didn't have courage enough to walk home in his underwear, so his companions left him while they went back for another suit. A tramp is blamed for the robbery.

### GIRLS FOUND HERE

Homestead Fair, Traveling With Carnival, Are Sent Home.

Two girls of prominent families in Homestead were apprehended here Monday by Chief of Police Bowers and handed over to Assistant Chief of Police Fred Boyle of that place, who took them to their homes. The girls were 17 and 19, and had left Saturday night.

Chief Bowers went to the grounds of the Elkport Shows at Fayette Field with Boyle, who came here to find the girls. Boyle recognized one of the girls in a stand and notified the manager that she would have to be removed. He spoke to the other, Commissioner John S. Landry stated that by doing this it would mean they would be taken into court and compelled to use the or the other ballots. He said that this was just what they wanted.

A lawyer, attorney here who has proposed contesting the action of the commissioners, said that if both partisan and non-partisan petitions are accepted, there can be no contest in the courts to determine the ballot to be used until the ballots are printed. The county commissioners must decide first, he said, and if they decide to use the partisan ballots and have that kind printed, they will be taken into court at the non-partisan ballot box.

The situation is in a muddle. So far there has been no petition filed for any city office either in Connellsville or in Uniontown. At the commissioners' office both partisan and non-partisan petitions will be accepted. Unless the commissioners reverse themselves again it will not be until August 31, the last day for filing petitions and time for the court to go to the printer, that an issue can be raised. In event of another decision setting aside the non-partisan ballot law, an appeal to the supreme court might not be decided until on the eve of the general election.

Davidson did itself proud with its Independence Day celebration. A big parade at 8:30, with the Y. M. C. A. band, first aid teams, Jr. O. U. A. M., school children, and various societies in line, started the festivities. Then a big American flag purchased by the Junior Order, was unfurled to the breeze and a patriotic demonstration took place. A number of children participated in folk dances and drills at the Y. M. C. A. building. J. K. Smith delivered an address and read the Declaration of Independence.

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Subscript for The Weekly Courier.

### BALLOT STRADDLE DECIDED UPON BY COMMISSIONERS

**City Candidates Will Get  
Both Kinds of Nomina-  
tion Blanks.**

### SOMEbody TO START SOMETHING

County Board Advised by Solicitor  
to Use Non-Partisan Ballot, but  
After Deciding to Follow This Ad-  
vice They Decide to Dodge Issue.

The county commissioners have decided to straddle the issue as involved in the non-partisan nomination and election of city officials in Fayette county this year. After deciding to use the non-partisan ballot, such as is used in every other county in the state, a course suggested by their solicitor, Attorney T. H. Hudson, the commissioners Tuesday came to the conclusion that they will furnish both kinds of nomination blanks and let some candidates start contend.

HARRY MCGIBBONS.

Following a lingering illness, Harry McGibbons, 45 years old, a druggist at Dunbar and one of the best known residents of Fayette county, died Friday at 3:30 o'clock at the family residence. Mr. McGibbons had been ill for six months and in hopes of restoring his health he underwent an operation at a Pittsburgh hospital a few months ago. No arrangements had been made for the funeral today.

MARY MCGLYNN.

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ROBERTS & MEETZ.

Mr. and Mrs. Roberts & Meetz, who have been engaged in the manufacture of soap and candles, have sold their plant to a company in New York. The company has agreed to pay \$10,000 for the plant and fixtures.

WILLIAM D. SCOTT.

William D. Scott, 40, a carpenter, has sold his house and furniture to a company in New York. The company has agreed to pay \$10,000 for the house and furniture.

LYDIA KLINK.

Miss Lydia Klink, a former well known resident of Connellsville, died following an illness of pneumonia. Deceased was the widow of Samuel Klink and is survived by the following children: Mrs. J. E. Loot, Bridgeport; Mrs. E. Colbert, Thompson's Cross Roads; Mrs. G. H. Brookman, Connellsville; Mrs. J. Anderson of Lock No. 4; Mrs. Minnie Anderson and Samuel Klink.

MRS. MARY RINGER.

Miss Mary Ringer, widow of Jacob Ringer, and a sister of Mrs. Dwight Musser of Dawson, died suddenly Friday at her home at Clifton Mills, W. Va., and for the past 17 years had conducted a drug store on Railroad street, Dunbar. He was a member of King Solomon Lodge of Masons of Connellsville and was a Knight Templar. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Margaret Hunt McGibbons, one sister, Mrs. D. T. Scott of Brooklyn Mills, and a brother, Percy McGibbons of Uniontown.

DAVID JOHNSON.

David Johnson, 79 years old, a lifelong resident of Uniontown, died Saturday morning. Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon from the family residence. Rev. H. E. Coffman of Scottsdale officiated. Deceased was a brother of Mrs. Kate Gilmet of Scottsdale.

MRS. MARY WRUGALLA.

Mrs. Mary Wrugalla, 28 years old, wife of John Wrugalla, died Tuesday at her home at Leisenring No. 1, following a lingering illness. In addition to her husband she is survived by several children.

MRS. ELIZA MESMORIE.

Mrs. Eliza M. Mesmorie, widow of John Mesmorie, died Tuesday morning at the home of her son, Charles Mesmorie in Uniontown.

DIES IN ZANESVILLE

Former Local Resident Succumbs While on Visit.

While on a visit to a daughter in Zanesville, O., William T. Smith, a former well known resident of Connellsville, died Saturday morning. Mr. Smith left Uniontown about two weeks ago apparently in good health, visits his daughter, Mrs. H. E. Rhodes.

Mr. Smith was a veteran of the Civil War and for a number of years resided in the West Side. The surviving children are Mrs. Fred B. Whaley of Connellsville, James, Cecile and Walter Smith of Uniontown, and Mrs. E. Rhodes of Zanesville, and Mrs. Eddie Anderson of Mount Pleasant.

STORK IS ACTIVE.

It Leaves Daughters at Homes of Folks Known Here.

A daughter, weighing at 11 pounds was born yesterday to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lawley at their home on Elm street, Connellsville. The baby took its first step, but in making its getaway the minnow crossed the path of a strong light and was recognized as a resident of the community.

JAIL WARDEN R. NEWTON.

Was summoned to West Leisenring and accompanied by Constables Richard Wood and William Deselleman to the scene of the crime.

The man smashed the plate glass

of the store window with a pop bottle and fled. The man was captured in the second time within two months the store has been broken into. On the former occasion Mallinger lost between \$2,500 and \$3,000 in merchandise.

BUSINESS MEN TO MEET

B. & O. Committee Is Expected to Show Results Accomplished.

Report is to come to the Baltimore & Ohio railroad as to doing for Connellsville in exchange for the freight business turned over to it by the business men of the community are expected at the meeting tonight of the Business & Professional Men's Credit Association. At the same time it is expected the members of the association will tell what they are doing for the Baltimore & Ohio. It is said that the payroll of the company has been materially increased, especially at the shops, as a result of the agreement between the association and the railroad.

The picnic committee will hold a special meeting tomorrow evening it is expected that members of the various committees will be named.

SEEK DIVORCES.

Desertion Alleged in Two Cases Filed Today.

George Marlett is High Gun in Keen Competition.

George Marlett was the champion marksmanship in a clay pigeon shoot held yesterday at the Rockwell Marlett farm near town. William H. Marlett took second place.

The result of the shoot was as follows:

George Marlett, 67 out of 65; William H. Marlett, 59 out of 65; Noah Anderson, 48 out of 65; J. E. Sims, 45 out of 65; C. D. Marlett of Liggett, 40 out of 65; J. R. Mestress, 6 out of 20.

CLOSE DEAL.

Method

## NON-PARTISAN VOTE DECIDED UPON FOR CITIES THIS YEAR

**County Commissioners Decide to Carry Out Clark Act Provision.**

## THEIR SOLICITOR SUGGESTS IT

**Holds That Appeal Would Likely Upset the Van Swearingen Decision of Two Years Ago; Court's Order No Longer Binding Upon the County**

City officers in Connellsville and Uniontown will then be elected on non-partisan ballot. This decision was reached by the county commissioners upon the filing of an opinion Saturday by Solicitor T. H. Lindon suggesting such a course.

Two years ago Connellsville, then the only third-class city in the county, elected its officers by a party vote. Judge Van Swearingen, in deciding the test case which had been brought before him, held the non-partisan features of the Clark act to be unconstitutional, and his opinion was followed in the election. That was brought in other counties resulted in decisions upholding the law. An appeal to the supreme court was over taken, but the state's highest judicial tribunal upheld the constitutionality of another non-partisan law, that governing the election of judges.

Although it had been assumed that the Van Swearingen decision was binding in Fayette county until upset by the higher court, it is the belief of attorneys that the opinion applied to one specific case that has been filed in Connellsville, and that the commissioners, in obeying the mandate of the court in that instance, were left free to follow their own inclinations in the future. It will be necessary now for a candidate who desires to seek city office by a party decision, to start a new proceeding. It is doubtful whether this will be done.

Attorney E. C. Higbee, who conducted the fight against the non-partisan law two years ago, expressed belief today that a decision similar to that of Judge Van Swearingen would not be upheld.

"I believe now, as I did then," Mr. Higbee said today, "that the non-partisan ballot act is unconstitutional. However, in view of the supreme court's decision in the non-partisan ballot law, as applied to the judiciary, I feel certain that the third class city law would be upheld."

The test of the non-partisan ballot law went to the supreme court when the question was raised as to the constitutionality of the law affecting the election of judges on a non-partisan ticket. The third class city law is similar, although covered by an entirely separate enactment. The supreme court's decision did not in any way affect the third class city law, except as to indicate the probable effect that that court should an appeal be taken.

The test case was from Philadelphia, and the opinion sustaining the constitutionality of the law was given by Justice John P. Elkin on March 16, last year. In summing up his findings Justice Elkin said:

"We rest this decision (upholding the law) on the ground that the Legislature had the power to prescribe the form of the official ballot, to provide in what manner candidates shall be chosen, what names shall be printed on the ballot, and what is printed on the ballot nothing contained in the Act of 1913 is sufficient to justify this court in declaring that the Legislature abused its power by writing into the statute a limitation which it had no right to impose under the provisions of the elective franchise. If it were not duty to make the law, no doubt some of its provisions would be written differently, but we cannot declare an act void because in our respect it may not meet the approval of our government, or because there may be difference of opinion as to its wisdom upon grounds of public policy. Questions of this character belong to the Legislature and not to the courts. If the representations complained of in this proceeding are found to be onerous or burdensome, the Legislature may be appealed to for such relief, or for such amendments as people may think proper to demand."

Friday was the first day to circulate petitions of nomination to city and county offices at the primary election of September 21. Aspirants for city offices are expected to appear in large numbers within the next two months. The law requires that all petitions must be presented to the county commissioners three weeks before the primary election, which will be on July 26 and August 23, for candidates to announce themselves.

Connellsville will elect four commissioners and three school directors. All other elective offices of the city, with the exception of the election board officers, hold over. While there may be some dispute as to the interpretation of the law, City Controller A. H. Hood, apparently, will hold over until 1913, along with the mayor. Ordinarily they would be chosen, but two school directors are to be chosen, but the election board officers will be chosen.

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While none of the Connellsville councilmen will declare themselves, it is stated that at least three of them will not be candidates. Superintendent of Parks and Public Property John Duggan, the only Democrat of the four commissioners, will likely throw his hat in the ring. During the first two years of city government here, he has conducted a portion of the wheels of the new government running smoothly has fallen upon the three Republican Commissioners, and they have announced themselves on several occasions as being tired of the job, considering the insufficient remuneration of \$25 a month. The distribution of work under the Clark act is very unequal. It has been Connellsville's experience that the practical management of the city has come under the department of accounts and finance. The superintendent of parks and public property has

little or nothing to do, as the work is apportioned now, the street department's work is lessened by the assistance of the city engineer, superintendent of highways and other officials; the department of public safety embraces a supervision of the fire department, street lighting, etc.

## NO CLAIMS FILED, DOCTOR AND UNDERTAKER LOSE OUT

**Will Not Share in Distribution of Estate of Dunbar Township Man.**

UNIONTOWN, July 8.—Testimony was presented in court today in an effort to obtain claim for Alphonse Zamaroff, convicted of manslaughter for the killing of Tony Lockhart, Republic last October. Zamaroff was also the son of Lockhart, and it was an argument over the girl's trouble that resulted in the killing.

Although the offense charged took place 16 years ago, testimony was not taken in the divorce suit of Kate Abraham of Perry against John Abraham until last April. A decree in divorce was granted by the court on the grounds of infidelity. Mrs. Barbara Liering of Pittsburg was awarded a divorce from Calvin Herring on the grounds of cruel and barbarous treatment and desertion. William Clark, son of George Clark, was granted a divorce from Anna M. Charlton, descent having been alleged.

A rule has been issued on Boyd Jackson, deputy constable of Mason town, to show why he should not be removed from office for negligence. The removal was asked by S. Minor-Grey and L. A. Kull, his bondsmen.

On petition of T. Blair Palmer, one of the receivers for the Unfinished Window Glass Company, Attorney W. Russell Goss, an appointed auditor in the receiver's office.

Frank Verollet, who has been in jail 13 months for wife desertion, was released upon petition of his wife, Izzy Albert, convicted of assault and battery at the last term of court, was released on payment of the costs. Because of extenuating circumstances, Lily Gillin, convicted of receiving stolen chickens, was permitted to go free.

James Voron 11, jailed for infidelity by the father, Alex Veron, was discharged when Alex paid the costs.

Lemondine Cribel, 11 years old and colored, was sent to the George Junior Republic for breaking into a Brownsville store. Albert Robinson, a youth arrested at the same time, was freed on payment of the costs.

Charles James of South Connellsville, prosecuted by his wife for surety of the pence, was freed on payment of the costs and giving his own recognizance in the sum of \$200.

S. S. Fulton was appointed Judge of election in Saltlick township.

## GIVE TESTIMONY IN EFFORT TO LIGHTEN MAN'S SENTENCE

**Counsel Seeks Mild Punishment for Alphonse Zamaroff; Other Court News.**

UNIONTOWN, July 6.—Testimony was presented in court today in an effort to obtain claim for Alphonse Zamaroff, convicted of manslaughter for the killing of Tony Lockhart, Republic last October. Zamaroff was also the son of Lockhart, and it was an argument over the girl's trouble that resulted in the killing.

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S. S. Fulton was appointed Judge of election in Saltlick township.

at the close of business June 23, 1915.

**LOANS AND DISCOUNTS HELD IN BANKS**

**OVERDRAFTS UNENCOURAGED**

**U. S. BONDS DEPOSITED TO SECURE CIRCULATION (PAR VALUE)**

**DEPOSITS APPROVED**

**RECEIVED FROM FEDERAL RESERVE BANK**

**REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK AT DUNBAR, IN THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, JUNE 23, 1915.**

**LIABILITIES**

**CAPITAL STOCK PAID IN**

**SURPLUS FUND**

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## BAN PLACED ON ROAD RACES OVER STATE HIGHWAYS

**Commissioner Cunningham  
Closes Thoroughfares  
to Speeders.**

## NEEDS PROTESTS FROM FAYETTE

**Damage to the Summit Hill and Complainants Against Roping Off of the Road Results in Prompt Announcement Future Events are Banned.**

No road races or hill climbs will hereafter be permitted on state highways. This announcement was made today in Harrisburg by State Highway Commissioner Robert J. Cunningham, according to an Associated Press dispatch to The Courier. Immediately upon receipt of an opinion from Attorney General Brown to effect that he had the authority to prohibit such events, the state highway commissioner made his decision public, in order that no competing contests might be allowed to go on.

The Courier last week voiced the protest of Fayette countians against the virtual appropriation of a public road for private purposes. It pointed out that there was no authority for roping off the National Pike, erecting a stand in the middle of the road and collecting an admission fee for those persons who sought to travel over the course. It further called attention to the fact that persons who travel over the National Pike are entitled to passage without risking their lives and limbs at the hands of racing drivers who were either competing in the contest, or training for it.

These appealed forcibly to the State Highway Commissioner. He was further informed that the highway had been seriously damaged as a result of the fast driving of the speed cars. The National Pike is not in any too good condition at best, and the State Highway Department's funds are not so ample that money can be expended patching up roads that are torn to pieces by racing cars.

The recent hill climb was held without the sanction of the State Highway Department, although it did not interfere. For the past two years the Uniontown men promoting the contest have simply taken the pike without going through the formalities and permission of the State Highway Commissioner Cunningham has decided that in the future speed contests and hill climbs must be held on other than state highways.

### SOME MAN!

**This Colored Gent Should Have No Trouble Landing a Job.**

Broadway, New York, July 7.—A Negro, shown the way, the superintendents that have long been considered "standard" on the White Lane have been gone one better. And by that a colored "gent" of Pittsburgh, who displays his wares in a much-admired want epistle in a Pittsburgh paper. Here it is:

A colored man, qualified with acknowledged inventive resourceful profane and adventurous mentality, endowed with powerful energy and ambition and invincible courage, equipped with normal training valuable experience and extraordinary credentials and recommendations as to education, character, habits and upright sterling character, offers himself for employment no longer. Lord Kitchener has advertised for one million men of the "invincible" type.

### BARN BURNS DOWN.

**Serendipity Suspected of Causing Fire at Mrs. Lakin's Farm.**

Serendipity of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Lakin, who had just returned from their wedding tour, are suspected of having set fire to the barn of Mrs. Ella Lakin, between Mount Pleasant and the stock, carriages and other contents were saved.

When Mr. and Mrs. Lakin returned home Monday night from their wedding tour they attended a wedding. The serendipity kept at the job until late that night. After they had gone and quiet was restored the barn was discovered to be ablaze. Whether it was ignited by accident or deliberately is not known. No information have been made as yet.

### TO TEACH AT TARENTUM.

**Homer C. Wright, Former Principal Here, Gets Position.**

Homer C. Wright of Bullock township, former principal of the Third ward school here, has been elected teacher of mathematics and football coach at Tarentum High School. He was graduated from Gettysburg College this spring and returned to his home about a week ago. During his college course, he was varsity center of the Gettysburg football team.

Mr. Wright resigned as principal of the Third ward school five years ago. He is very well known in Connellsville.

### BOY'S FOOLISH PRANK

**Throws Litigant Firecracker Into Moving Picture House.**

During the performance at the Globe Theatre last week, a boy came to the rear door and threw a litigant firecracker onto the stage, near the motion picture screen. It exploded with a bang a few seconds later. It was only a small cracker and the audience saw it go off without evincing any excitement.

Bert Kickey, who was in the theater at the time, gave chase to the boy but he did not succeed in catching him.

### Library Circulation Gains.

The report of Miss Margaret Whitteman, librarian of the Carnegie Free Library, submitted this morning shows a circulation of 3,872 during the month of June, an increase of 444 over the month of June, 1914.

## FREE EDUCATION FOR BLIND CHILDREN IS OFFERED NOW

Pittsburgh Institute Takes Those of School Age and Equips Them to Fight Life's Battle.

The Western Pennsylvania Institution for the Blind, located at the corner of Bedford avenue and Bayard street, Pittsburgh, is a school of learning for the benefit of blind children between the ages of six and twenty. It is to educate them, "not as they are," for many purposes, for work and inform blind people, nor is it a hospital for the treatment of diseases of the eye, but it is strictly educational in all its activities.

A liberal education is provided covering a course of study similar to that of the public and high schools of the state, together with instruction in vocal and instrumental music, industrial occupations, physical development, religion and purpose is to give to the blind child such educational and industrial training as will aid him to become an independent and useful member of society.

The institution incorporated and pupils are given the benefits and privileges of the school free of charge. All children are accorded the same privileges and opportunities.

The work of the school is divided into four departments—literary, musical, industrial and physical. The course in the literary department, beginning with the kindergarten, and including the high school, embraces nearly all the subjects taught in the public grammar and high schools. The Braille system of dots is used for reading and writing in all branches, including arithmetic and music. It is a child reading as readily with his fingers as his seeing brother reads in print. Typewriting is also taught, and they soon learn to operate the various typewriters as rapidly and accurately as any seeing typist. In the girls' industrial department there is also a graded course covering plain and fancy sewing, machine sewing, crocheting, knitting, lace work, etc. The boys' work devotes itself entirely to the care of tools and teaches him mechanics in cutting and forming different shapes.

Work has been started on the 6,300 feet of road east and west of Vanderbilts. It is to be resurfaced. The road through Perry township, about a mile east of the town, will be resurfaced, and the road between the Perry and Fayette county line and the road between Belle Vernon and Fayette City, a distance of 2½ miles, following the National Pike, will be resurfaced.

On July 1 Frederick Sandusky,

## DEATH LAYS HEAVY HAND ON FAMILY OF H. NICHOLSON

**Father, Grandfather and Father-in-Law Have Died Since Sunday.**

## GRIM REAPER GARNERS HARVEST

**Grandfather Dies Soon After the Father Is Buried, and Young Man, Wife's Parent, a Friend Veteran, Succumbs the Next Day.**

Other Prisoners Prevent Him and He Will Get a Hearing This Afternoon on Charges Preferred Against Him Before Alderman Eugene O'Donovan

## YOUTH TRAVELS 60 MILES STRETCHED ON AUTO PENDER

Stretched full length on an automobile fender, Robert Smith, son of W. W. Smith of Johnston avenue held two platinum points of a magnet wire together, enabling his brother, Clarence Smith, to drive the car from Bedford to Latrobe a distance of nearly 60 miles.

When the wire broke the young men were unable to repair it. Robert held the wires in place until a garage in Pittsburgh was reached. The young men were returning from Boston, where they attend Lafayette College.

## CONCRETE BRIDGES WILL BE ERECTED ON STATE HIGHWAYS

**Engineer Stevens Says Structures at Moyer and Logan's Crossing Will Be Replaced.**

Providence has been made by State Highway Engineer H. R. Stevens for the month of July for the replacing of the two wooden bridges now in service at Logan's Crossing and at Moyer. Concrete structures are to be built, is the word given out.

Work has been started on the 6,300 feet of road east and west of Vanderbilts. It is to be resurfaced. The road through Perry township, about a mile east of the town, will be resurfaced, and the road between the Perry and Fayette county line and the road between Belle Vernon and Fayette City, a distance of 2½ miles, following the National Pike, will be resurfaced.

On July 1 Frederick Sandusky,

Two Daughters Contest Provisions, Claiming Father Was of Unsound Mind.

UNIONTON, July 1.—Legal proceedings to set aside the will of Michael Hurley, one of Connellsville's richest men, were begun in orphan's court today when Attorney William J. Stetson, attorney for himself and Mrs. Earl Lillian and Mrs. Bridget Doyle, daughters of Mr. Hurley.

Allegations that Mr. Hurley, who died some months ago, was of unsound mind when he made his will, are contained in the petition which has just been filed. Under the terms of the will, the income from the estate was to be divided among the surviving children, and the remainder was to go to Michael Hurley when he became 21 years old; in the event of the grandfather's death before reaching the age of 21, the will provided that the estate should revert to the residuary trustees. Provision was made for Mrs. Anna Hurley, the widow, during her lifetime, or until she remarried; John, her son-in-law, was named manager of the estate and a bequest was included for Dr. H. J. Coll, also a son-in-law.

It developed during the proceedings in orphans' court today that no guardian has yet been appointed for Michael Hurley either. The attorney will agree upon someone in the near future.

## COMISKY ARRESTED AFTER FLASHY DASH AND TRIES SUICIDE

Youth Who Leaped From Bridge Tries to Hang Himself.

Other Prisoners Prevent Him and He Will Get a Hearing This Afternoon on Charges Preferred Against Him Before Alderman Eugene O'Donovan

After making a desperate attempt to escape arrest by jumping from the Young bridge Friday night, Dick Comisky, wanted on a serious charge before Alderman Eugene O'Donovan, was recaptured and lodged in the lock-up early Thursday. He was caught after midnight on the West Side by Patrolman Frank Ganee. Following his arrest he made an unsuccessful attempt to hang himself.

Instead of leaving the city, Comisky hung around the bridge. He was standing on the corner of Eighth and Main streets when Patrolman Ganee came along and told the crowd there that it was time to go. Dick stood in the rear and did not make a move to escape, thinking that he would be overlooked. He missed his guess and was taken.

He was taken to city hall and put in a cell there. Tying his trousers, suspending his socks, needle and a chain from the ceiling, he lay down, holding himself up by his thumbs. He was awake at the time he cut him down. A short time later he declared that he was going to kill himself by jumping to the cement floor from one of the bunkers intending to beat on his head. Again he was prevented by the other prisoners.

Comisky will be given a hearing this afternoon at 2 o'clock. The charges were preferred against him by Margaret Quawn, colored.

Expect School Census to Run About 2,900 This Year.

L. K. Miller and E. C. Miner, school enumerators, expect to finish Friday. They have but a portion of the fifth ward to cover. They expect that a slight increase in the enrollment of children between the ages of 6 to 14 will be shown when the census is completed. Last year the enumeration showed 2,918, but this year it is expected to run about 2,902.

The third ward, as usual, will show the largest school population, with 645.

The second ward will show the biggest decrease, the large number of empty houses in that section showing that many families have moved out of the city, taking with them many children of school age. The other wards will run about the same.

## FINISHING ENUMERATION

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## ATTACKED BY THUGS

Robert Shultz Painfully Injured During Struggle.

After hauling the household goods of a Mount Pleasant family from that place to his home, Robert Shultz, a boy of 14, was attacked under the Davidson bridge last evening by six men who beat him with pick handles and other weapons, trying to take the machine from his wagon.

Mr. Shultz protected himself as best he could with his rifle, but he was being worsted in the uneven combat with several of the Negroes. He suffered severe bruises and cuts on the head. His cries for help when he realized that he could not stand off all his assailants were heard by the residents of the village and they wasted no time in getting on the job and driving the attacking party away.

## JUNE A COLD MONTH

Temperatures Considerably Lower Than Those of Last Year.

June, 1915 was considerably cooler than the same month last year, any way you take it, according to the figures compiled by C. A. Durbaugh of the West Penn. The average maximum temperature last month was 80.8 degrees while a year ago it was 85.5. The average minimum was 59 compared with 61.6 last year and the average for June was 69.3 against 73 in June, 1914.

The mayor's collections for last month were considerably less than other months, outside of the special tax. The entire collections amounted to \$80,175, of which only \$104 was received from fines in police court.

Any blind child who is not in school, should be reported to Thomas S. McAlone, superintendent of the Western Pennsylvania Institution for the Blind, who will furnish blank forms of application, and any other information desired concerning the school. Children of school age are admitted.

## SOME SPEED!

Unontown Has Mysteries as Fire Crawls at 35 Miles Clip.

Unontown is all "hot up" over the arrival of two new automobile fire trucks and the whole population turned out last Thursday to see one of them rush to a fire. The newspapermen were thrilled. One of them poured out his soul in describing the "action" as "it was the first time a truck truck turned out to a fire in Unontown, delousing and those who saw it in action."

"Carrying 1,200 feet of standard hose and about a dozen men, made the trip in a few seconds, the speedometer registering 36 miles an hour and hopelessly outdistancing the two-horse-drawn wagons that followed," etc.

Gosh! 35 miles an hour! The Conemaugh automobile truck now goes to town here, the Yankie belief in answer to a fire alarm at less than 40 miles an hour, and it is not exerting itself at all, yet after being used to horse drawn hose wagon for so long, the new truck's 35 miles an hour looks "like lightning" to Unontown.

## NEGRO WINS FIGHT

Governor Brumbaugh Will Not Permit Removal to South Carolina.

PHILADELPHIA, July 2.—Governor Brumbaugh, it was learned today, has withdrawn a requisition warrant issued by Governor Tamm in 1911 for Fred Brown, a negro wanted in South Carolina on a charge of murder after presentation had been made that the prisoner would be in danger of lynching if returned to the southern state.

Counsel for Brown has made extraordinary efforts to keep him out of South Carolina. After his arrest several years ago his counsel pleaded that if Brown were returned to that state he would be in danger of lynching. In support of his plea he quoted public utterances by Col. Blaive, then governor of South Carolina, in which he said: "It was the first time in our history that a black man was lynched."

The requisition was finally issued by Governor Tamm and Brown's counsel refused to accept it.

ROBSON RESIGNS.

Gives Up His Job as a Moving Picture Operator.

Richard Robson, electrician and operator of the moving picture machine at the Arcadia, has resigned.

Mr. Robson has not yet decided what he will do, but it is probable that he will secure employment with the Pittsburgh Midway Company, at Homewood.

He has been employed at the Arcadia for nine years and is one of the best known operators in Connellsville. He will be succeeded by Oscar Adams.

## DIES FROM BURNS.

Boy Who Threw Kerosene in Stove Succumbs to Injuries.

Mike Minnick, 14 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Minnick of Mount Pleasant, was appointed guardian of Ethel May Thomas and Bertha Thompson, minors, by Judge J. C. Work of the Orphans' Court yesterday. They are grandchildren of Moses T. Dixon, late of Georges town.

In the explosion that followed the boy was horribly burned, but he lived until Wednesday night. The body was removed to the family home at Bespach, France.

BOY'S FOOLISH PRANK

Throws Litigant Firecracker Into Moving Picture House.

During the performance at the Globe Theatre last week, a boy came to the rear door and threw a litigant firecracker onto the stage, near the motion picture screen. It exploded with a bang a few seconds later. It was only a small cracker and the audience saw it go off without evincing any excitement.

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Advertise in The Weekly Courier.

## FIGHT TO BREAK WILL OF MICHAEL HURLEY IS BEGUN

## MINERAL INDUSTRIES OF COUNTRY SHOWING REVIVAL OF ACTIVITY

**United States Geological Survey Makes Mid-Year Estimate.**

### THE REPORTS ARE OPTIMISTIC

**Buminous Coal Output for the First Six Months of 1915 Is Far Behind Production of Same Period a Year Ago But Shows Signs of Improving**

The mid-year finds the mineral industries of the United States generally prosperous and enjoying a revival of active development. With this statement the Director of the United States Geological Survey opens an official review of mining conditions as reported to him by the government geologists and statisticians working on this subject. This review is quoted in full as follows: "The results of the inquiry as to some of the details in which increased demands have been noted during the past six months. This country has been first thrown upon its own resources for mineral products required and next given the opportunity to supply the needs of foreign countries who have offered us their trade. Comparative freedom from foreign competition and in some important cases increase of foreign markets have stimulated production and a general mining advance has set in."

Surrounding the special reports at the Director's Smith continues his review:

"The six months record in iron is reassuring in that hopes at the beginning of the year have been realized. Ore shipments from the Lake Superior mines have begun well May 1915 showing a 10 per cent increase over May 1914. The pig iron output is also promising in its steady increase month by month so that a reasonable prophecy is for a greater total pig iron production for 1915 than for 1914. Employment and output at the iron and steel plants furnish substantial evidence of returning business confidence."

The half year period just completed has witnessed great changes in the copper industry and in every particular the improvement has been notable. Prices output and wages have shown an upward trend and prosperity is the word in the copper districts of the United States.

The demand for spelter and lead with the present high prices have given double impetus to mining in the zinc-lead districts. In the Joplin region, new shafts are being reopened and prospecting is most active. Smelters are pushed to capacity operation. The six months period has been altogether favorable for zinc mines and smelters and the June advance in the price of lead makes the outlook bright for all lead mining.

In the minor details the first American mine to be extensively operated for molybdenite has been opened in Colorado, a tin smelter is reported as being built in New Jersey and the Colorado tungsten mines are working full handed at full time, an Anthony smelter in California has resumed operations and a new one has been erected in the same state to work California ores and antimony ores have been shipped from Nevada and Alaska. The demand for quicksilver has increased with the result that the California, Nevada and Texas producers are expected to work at top capacity.

An unusual feature affecting coal mining has been the loss of a bunker trade at the Atlantic ports which is only partially offset by increasing exports. Reports from the west on the other hand show an increase in coal production over last year and in the east the coke output has increased considerably of late thus showing at least the effect of the recent activity in iron and other metals.

The petroleum production for the six months just closed is believed to exceed that for the corresponding period last year. Unfortunately for the producers this increase has not been in response to a demand expressed in higher prices. On the contrary the persistent flood of oil from the Oklahoma fields and from the new pools in Louisiana and Texas has prevented any permanent advance in price.

The output of bituminous coal in the United States for the first six months of 1915, as estimated by C. T. Lester of the Geological Survey, to be between 130,000,000 and 130,000,000 short tons, the rate of production having been from 85 to 90 per cent of the average for the previous year. Thus the bituminous coal production during this six months period has been considerably less than for the corresponding period in 1914 and is little if any greater than the output during the last half of that year.

The rate of production this year decreased after January reached a low ebb in March and April and is now on the increase. The states west of the Mississippi river which in 1914 produced less than 13 per cent of the total do not appear to have suffered from this decrease as much as the Eastern states—reports from certain districts in the West showing an increase over 1914. This is attributed to the increase in metallurgical and smelting and to greater railroad activity. In the East the loss of bunker trade on the Atlantic seaboard and the slowness of the railroads have been only partly offset by the increasing coal exports. The recent activity in the iron business has been slow to affect the coal trade although coke has gained considerable during the last two months and for the rest of 1915 the increased output should continue.

The anthracite producers have fared better than the soft coal operators, since it is estimated that the output of anthracite has fallen off only from 3 to 5 per cent below the average for 1914.

In a Geological Survey mid-year statement E. F. Burchard thus re-

views the six months trend of the iron industry:

"At the close of 1914 it was generally believed that conditions in the iron industry had reached about as low an ebb as was possible and that a renovation must soon begin. Aside from this feeling however the prospects at the beginning of 1915 seemed fairer than they had been for many months although it was realized that many influences would likely continue to operate in the year to come. A general recovery of the iron industry during the first half of 1915 is at least encouraging for it indicates that the moderate losses entailed at the beginning of the year have been fairly well realized. The beginning of 1915 found the lower lake docks and the blast furnaces dependent on lake ores well stocked with ore, while there is little demand yet the mines were equipped to supply more than ever and required no additional labor to an increase in output of iron ore.

"In only a few exceptions there has been a larger output of iron ore each year following a year of declining production. The iron mining season has begun auspiciously for the Lake Superior district for in the month of May 1915 the shipments were 912,377 long tons compared with 667,662 long tons in the corresponding month in 1914 according to the iron ore statistics. An increase of 1,160,291 tons or more than 30 per cent.

"As to pig iron output there has been a steadily increasing production for six of the first five months of 1915. This contrasts most favorably with the monthly output in 1914 which reached its maximum in March and then tended steadily downward to the end of the year, reaching a minimum in May 1915, while not quite reaching that of March 1914, was about 6 per cent greater than that of May 1914 and all indications now point to an increased total output of pig iron in 1915.

"Prices of Bessemer and basic pig iron at Pittsburgh in June 1915 showed an advance of 1 cent a ton over those in March 1914. But they were about 20 cents a ton lower than prices of those grades in February.

"Prices of pig iron at Pittsburgh

remained relatively stationary this year and are about 10 cents a ton lower than in June 1914, while the price of Southern No. 2 at Birmingham has declined 25 cents a ton within the last month and is 9 cents a ton lower than in June 1914. Pig iron prices therefore are not particularly consoling at present.

"The indications of returning

confidence however is the gradual resumption of work of such construction work at iron and steel plants that had been abruptly stopped at the outbreak of the European war, as well as the beginning of considerable new work. Important extensions at the plants of the Bethlehem Steel Company have been resumed, important new or resumed operations at the U. S. Steel Corporation are under way at the Homestead, New Castle, Sharon, Gary, Edgar Thomson, and Duluth plants, a new iron and steel plant is being constructed at Bethlehem, and a plant for the production of iron and steel fertilizer from iron and open-hearth slag at Laclede, Mo. The construction of benzol recovery plants is especially active at present, for besides those already mentioned plants are being erected by the Thomas A. Edison Company at Woodward, via the Northwestern Iron Company at St. Louis Mo. and the Republic Iron and Steel Company at Youngstown, Ohio.

"One American industry which requires large quantities of iron and steel for its future appears particularly bright just now is that of shipbuilding. The total destruction of ships in the war coupled with the inability of European shipbuilders to replace them on account of the high prices of steel and of labor and also because practically all European shipyards are busy in naval construction work used in the mines for sale. In spite of the increased call for labor from Europe all the foreign markets are being cared for without pressure.

"While no figures are available

overnight in China trading centers

there are plenty of shipping weights from 1,170 to 1,180 tons of the class used in the mines for sale.

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